

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-08
ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02 /104 W
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UN, EGEN, AORG
SUBJECT: UN RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE: SECRETARIAT
SUPPORT SERVICES

REF: USUN 503

1. SUMMARY: AT FEBRUARY 23 AND 24 MEETINGS OF UN
RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE'S INFORMAL CONTACT GROUP,DISCUSSION
CONTINUED IN SERIOUS VEIN ON PROBLEM AREAS VIII CONCERNING
SECRETARIAT SUPPORT SERVICES. POLISH AND US DELS SUBMITTED
INFORMAL DRAFTS FOR THIS PROBLEM AREA. POLISH DRAFT RECEIVED
LITTLE ATTENTION, BUT US DRAFT WAS BASICALLY WELL RECEIVED.
END SUMMARY.

2. WITH LITTLE SPECIFIC PROGRESS, GENERAL DISCUSSION OF SECRETARIAT
SUPPORT SERVICES CONTINUED AT FEBRUARY 23 MEETING OF UN
RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE'S INFORMAL CONTACT GROUP. HOWEVER,
DISCUSSION REMAINED GENERALLY NONCONTENTIOUS AND AT HIGH
LEVEL.

3. FEBRUARY 24 MEETING OPENED WITH SUBMISSION BY
POLISH DEL OF A BRIEF PARAGRAPH INTENDED TO REFLECT
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CONTACT GROUP DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING SUBPARA 1(A) OF
SECTION VIII OF CONSOLIDATED TEXT. THE G-77 SPOKESMAN
(PAKISTAN) QUICKLY DISMISSED THIS AS CALLING FOR LITTLE
MORE THAN HAVING THE SECRETARIAT DO A LITTLE BETTER WHAT
IT HAS ALWAYS DONE.

4. IN EFFORT TO RESPOND TO CHAIRMAN'S REQUEST FOR MORE

SPECIFICITY AND PRECISION, THE US DEL SUBMITTED AN INFORMAL PAPER (PARA 8 BELOW) CONCERNING THE BASIC FUNCTIONS OF THE SECRETARIAT IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AREA. THE G-77 SPOKESMAN SAID THE PAPER INDICATED "SOME DIRECTIONAL SIMILARITY" BETWEEN G-77 AND US APPROACHES, ALTHOUGH THE G-77 WOULD PLACE MORE IMPORTANCE ON THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITY. THE JAPANESE DEL AND EC-9 SPOKESMAN (UK) INDICATED SOME DIFFICULTIES BUT APPEARED TO ACCEPT THE GENERAL THRUST OF THE US PAPER. THEY WERE TROUBLED ESPECIALLY BY THE IMPLIED LINKAGE OF RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS WITH PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING AND THE POSSIBLE INFRINGEMENT OF THE PROGRAM ANALYSIS ACTIVITY ON THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ACC AND THE OFFICE FOR INTER-AGENCY AFFAIRS. US DEL RESPONDED TO THIS CONCERN.

5. THE POLISH AND USSR DELS CONTINUED TO ARGUE FOR JUST IMPROVING THE EXISTING SECRETARIAT RATHER THAN CREATING ADDITIONAL UNITS. THE G-77 SPOKESMAN RESPONDED THAT ADDITIONAL UNITS ARE NOT INTENDED.

6. THE CHAIRMAN NOTED AGREEMENT THAT THE RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS FUNCTION IS AT THE CORE OF WHAT IS DESIRED FROM THE SECRETARIAT. AS A FRAMEWORK FOR SPELLING OUT THIS FUNCTION, HE SUGGESTED IDENTIFYING THE LEGISLATIVE BASIS FOR FOUR ACTIVITIES WHICH RESEMBLED THOSE IN SUBPARA 1(A) OF THE US PAPER. AFTER THE MEETING HE EXPLAINED TO US DEL (FOX) THAT HE WAS ATTEMPTING TO "SUGAR COAT" THE US PROPOSALS TO MAKE THEM MORE ACCEPTABLE TO THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND THE G-77.

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7. THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE FRIDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 25.

8. TEXT OF US INFORMAL PAPER. QUOTE

VIII. SECRETARIAT SUPPORT SERVICES

1. RECOGNIZING THE INCREASING IMPORTANCE OF THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS, AND THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE MACHINERY THAT WOULD SUPPORT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR ENHANCED ROLE IN THESE FIELDS, THE FOLLOWING MEASURES SHOULD BE TAKEN IN RESTRUCTURING THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT:

(A) A COMPREHENSIVE INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS UNIT SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT, DRAWING AS NECESSARY UPON ALL RELEVANT PARTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM, THAT WOULD:

(1) CONDUCT ON A REGULAR AND ONGOING BASIS
NECESSARY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SURVEYS WHICH WOULD SERVE
AS THE PRIMARY DATA BASE FOR REVIEW OF THE WORLD ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL SITUATION BY APPROPRIATE INTERGOVERNMENTAL
BODIES;

(2) RESPOND TO DIRECTIVES FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL
BODIES FOR SPECIFIC ANALYSES, REPORTS, ETC., CONCERNING
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS;

(3) IDENTIFY EMERGING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
PROBLEMS -- E.G., THE IMPACT OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL
ADVANCEMENTS -- THAT REQUIRE INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION;

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(4) PREPARE ON A REGULAR BASIS INTERSECTORAL
ANALYSES OF INDIVIDUAL MEDIUM-TERM PLANS AND WORK-PROGRAMS
OF THE VARIOUS UNITS WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM FOR REVIEW
BY THE APPROPRIATE INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES IN THEIR
CONSIDERATION OF THE OVERALL BALANCE OF UN SYSTEM
ACTIVITIES AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH GOALS, OBJECTIVES
AND PRIORITIES PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED BY ECOSOC AND THE
GA ARE BEING MET.

(B) A MEETINGS SERVICING UNIT SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED
WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT WITH ADEQUATE RESPONSIBILITY AND
AUTHORITY FOR:

(1) ASSURING THAT THE DOCUMENTATION FOR MEETINGS

OF UN INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES CONCERNING ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL MATTERS IS AVAILABLE ON A TIMELY BASIS;

(2) PROVIDING THE REQUIRED SESSIONAL SERVICING
OF UN INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES CONCERNING ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL MATTERS;

(3) COORDINATING THE SUBSTANTIVE SUPPORT
REQUIRED DURING SESSIONS OF UN INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES
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CONCERNING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MATTERS;

(4) MONITORING REPORTS ON SECRETARIAT IMPLI-
MENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY UN
INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES CONCERNING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MATTERS.

(C) A SMALL TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICING UNIT
SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT FOR PROVIDING
NECESSARY SUPPORT SERVICES TO SUBSTANTIVE SECRETARIAT UNITS
RESPONSIBLE FOR CONDUCTING THOSE RESIDUAL OPERATIONAL
ACTIVITIES THAT CANNOT BE ASSIGNED ELSEWHERE IN THE UN SYSTEM.

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